

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An electrosurgical return electrode for use in electrosurgery. The return electrode is self-limiting and self-regulating as to maximum current and temperature rise to prevent patient trauma. An inductor is coupled in series with the return electrode. The inductor counteracts at least a portion of the impedance of the return electrode and the patient to optimize the flow of the current when the amount of contact area between the patient and the return electrode is sufficient to perform electrosurgery. The inductor may also be variable to allow the overall impedance of the electrosurgical circuit to be adjusted and tuned to work properly and safely with a particular patient and the other equipment used to perform electrosurgery. A conductor member operates with circuitry that indicates to a user when the contact area between the patient and the self-limiting member and/or return electrode is below a given threshold.

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